

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CCO-00 USSS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

ACDA-19 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 NEA-10 DRC-01 /169 W

----- 008047

O 012115Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2016

USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 651

UNCLAS OTTAWA 2603

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, XG, UN, CA

SUBJECT: CANADIAN CONTRIBUTION TO UNEF

1. EXTAFF SECRETARY SHARP INFORMED COMMONS THIS
AFTERNOON HIS INTENTION DISCUSS CANADIAN UNEF CONTRIBUTION
WITH UNSYG TOMORROW MORNING NOV 2 IN NEW YORK. SHARP
STATEMENT FOLLOWS:

QUOTE

I WISH TO INFORM THE HOUSE THAT IT IS MY INTENTION
TO MEET WITH THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS
IN NEW YORK TOMORROW MORNING TO DISCUSS FURTHER WITH HIM
HIS REQUEST TO CANADA TO PROVIDE A CONTRIBUTION TO THE
UNITED NATIONS EMERGENCY FORCE IN THE MIDDLE EAST. THE
SECRETARY GENERAL IS ENCOUNTERING DIFFICULTIES IN
DETERMINING THE OVER-ALL COMPOSITION OF THE FORCE. THESE
DIFFICULTIES RELATE BOTH TO THE SCALE OF CANADIAN
PARTICIPATION AND TO SUCH MATTERS AS WHETHER A WARSAW
PACT COUNTRY OUGHT TO BE INCLUDED TO BALANCE THE
INCLUSION OF A NATO COUNTRY, AND WHETHER COUNTRIES OTHER
THAN CANADA ARE ACCEPTABLE TO ALL THE PARTIES CONCERNED.
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THE SECRETARY GENERAL CONFIRMED IN WRITING ON OCTOBER 28

THAT CANADA IS ACCEPTABLE TO THE PARTIES CONCERNED. I FEEL THE PROBLEMS CAN ONLY BE SATISFACTORILY EXPLORED BY PERSONAL CONTACT WITH THE SECRETARY GENERAL.

FOR THE MOMENT NO CANADIAN PERSONNEL WILL BE SENT TO THE AREA AND I DO NOT PROPOSE THEREFORE TO BRING FORWARD FOR DEBATE TOMORROW THE RESOLUTION SEEKING APPROVAL OF PARLIAMENT FOR CANADIAN PARTICIPATION IN UNEF. UNQUOTE

2. CONSERVATIVE EXTAFF CRITIC CLAUDE WAGNER REPLIED:

QUOTE

WE UNDERSTAND THE PREDICAMENT IN WHICH THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (MR. SHARP) FINDS HIMSELF. ON THE OTHER HAND I MUST SAY THAT THERE ARE MANY QUESTIONS THAT HAVE BEEN RAISED IN THE PAST FEW DAYS. WE UNDERSTAND THAT SOME OF OUR TROOPS ARE ALREADY OVER THERE IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND THAT SOME OF THEM, AS IT APPEARED ON TELEVISION LAST EVENING, ARE ENGAGED AS OBSERVERS AND THEREFORE ARE CAUGHT IN THE LINE OF FIRE. WE WOULD LIKE ANSWERS TO THOSE QUESTIONS, AND WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO KNOW IF IT IS A FACT THAT RUSSIA IS OBJECTING TO THE PARTICIPATION OF CANADA IN THIS MIDDLE EAST COMPROMISE.

THEREFORE I THINK IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT WE HAVE THIS DEBATE TOMORROW, AND THAT IT IS FAIRLY EASY FOR THE MINISTER TO BE IN TOUCH WITH THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE SECRETARY GENERAL THIS AFTERNOON AND REPORT BACK TO THE HOUSE.

WE ON THIS SIDE INSIST THAT THIS DEBATE TAKE PLACE. WE WOULD NOT LIKE TO FIND OURSELVES IN A SITUATION SIMILAR TO THAT IN WHICH PARLIAMENT FOUND ITSELF ON THE VIET NAM ISSUE. UNQUOTE.
SCHMIDT

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARMISTICE, MILITARY AIRLIFTS, MILITARY FLIGHT CLEARANCES, INTERNATIONAL PEACEKEEPING FORCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 NOV 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973OTTAWA02603
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: OTTAWA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731161/aaaabsvd.tel
Line Count: 97
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: collinp0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21-Aug-2001 by maustmc>; APPROVED <11 MAR 2002 by collinp0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CANADIAN CONTRIBUTION TO UNEF
TAGS: MARR, XG, CA, UN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005